

## Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 AID-20 IGA-02 SAJ-01

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /091 W  
----- 076251

R 121815Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7499  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMAKO 2181

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAID, ML  
SUBJ: PRC AID - MANANTALI DAM

REF (A) BAMAKO AIRGRAM 001, JAN. 4, 1973 (B) MEMCON FEB 16,  
1973 (C) HONG KONG 6448 (D) NOUAKCHOTT 174

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE CEREMONIAL ASPECTS OF PRESIDENT TRAORE'S LONG AWAITED VISIT TO THE PRC WERE WELL COVERED BY THE MALIAN MEDIA AS WAS EXPECTED. HOWEVER, NO SPECIFIC MENTION WAS MADE OF A PRC COMMITMENT TO FINANCE THE MANANTALI DAM OR ANY OTHER PROJECT ALTHOUGH THE SIGNING OF THE JUNE 24 CONVENTION WAS NOTED. WHILE THERE MAY BE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE CONTRARY, INDIRECT EVIDENCE INDICATE THAT GOM HAS MADE NO HEADWAY IN MAKING THE PREVIOUS PRC PROMISE IN PRINCIPLE TO FINANCE MANANTALI A REALITY. END SUMMARY.

2. SINCE MALI VIEWS THE PRC AS ITS MODEL FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, NO ONE HERE WAS SURPRISED BY THE ABUNDANT COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT TRAORE'S RECENT VISIT TO THE PRC, NOR WAS ANYONE SURPRISED BY THE BOOSTER, OR EVEN SYNCOPANTIC, IMAGE OF THE PRC GIVEN IN THE MALIAN PRESS DURING AND AFTER PRESIDENT TRAORE'S VISIT. MUCH WAS MADE OF COMMON SINO-MALIAN POLITICAL POSITIONS ON RACISM, COLONIALISM, ISRAEL, ETC. BUT ASIDE FROM THIS, PRINTING OF PUBLIC SPEECHES DESCRIBING ENDLESS CEREMONIES,

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AND SIGNING OF A CONVENTION FO ECONOMIC TECHNICAL COOPERATION ON

JUNE 24, THE MALIAN PRESS HAS SAID NOTHING ABOUT SPECIFIC AID PROGRAMS INCLUDING MANANTALI DAM. ALTHOUGH EMBOFFS HAVE MADE INFORMAL INQUIRIES, HAVE RECEIVED NO DIRECT INFORMATION ABOUT MANANTALI. HOWEVER, EMBASSY OFFS HAVE HEARD SECONDHAND THAT GOM RECEIVED NOTHING FROM PRC RE MANATALI OR THAT PRC AGREED TO SEND TEAM TO STUDY SITE. THIS WOULD BE THIRD MANANTALI STUDY TEAM THAT PRC HAS FIELDDED HERE. AS REPORTED IN REF B, PRC MAY HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF MANANTALI AS WELL AS DOUBTS ABOUT THE POLITICAL PAYOFF FOR AN INVESTMENT OF 125.4 MILLION DOLLARS (REF D) SINCE MALI IS BETTER KNOWN FOR PURSUING INDEPENDENT AND PRAGMATIC POLICIES THAN FOR HER ACKNOWLEDGED AFFINITY FOR THE PRC.

3. EMBASSY ACKNOWLEDGES POSSIBILITY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHINESE FINANCING OF MANANTALI IN NEAR FUTURE, I.E. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED IN PEKING BUT DETAILS NOW BEING HAMMERED OUT. HOWEVER, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT CHINESE INTEREST IN MANANTALI HAS WANED ALTHOUGH THEY STILL WANT TO BE ACTIVELY IDENTIFIED WITH PROJECT, WHICH IS MOST IMPORTANT FOR MALI'S DEVELOPMENT. THINK THAT CHINESE WILL CONTINUE TO STUDY PROJECT AND STRING GOM ALONRSINDEFINITELY, AND THUS CONTINUE TO REAP POLITICAL ADVANTAGE. SINCE NO OTHER DONOR HAS OFFERED TO FINANCE MAJOR SHARE OF MANANTALI COMPLEX, GOM IS FORCED TO PLAY CHINESE GAME.

KUNI HOLM

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